

**Listing of Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An electromagnetic drive device comprising a drive part arranged to be reciprocated in the stroke direction and possessing a circular or oval cross section, said drive part having a permanent magnet arrangement magnetized athwart the stroke direction, such arrangement possessing at least one pair of oppositely magnetized magnet portions arranged sequentially in the stroke direction and being arranged in the intermediate space of a yoke arrangement with pole pieces provided in the direction of magnetization on opposite sides of the drive part, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the yoke arrangement (16) possesses two pairs of pole pieces (~~19 through 22~~) delimiting the intermediate space and which are joined together by two yoke regions (~~23 and 24~~) extending essentially in parallelism to the stroke direction (~~H~~), at least one of the yoke regions (~~23 and 24~~) being surrounded by a coil (~~25 and 26~~) able to conduct current for performing a stroke and each pair of pole pieces (~~19 and 21 respectively 22 and 22~~) is provided with a pair of oppositely magnetized magnet portions ~~11, 12; 32, 33 and, respectively, 13, 14; 34, 35~~) of the permanent magnet arrangement.
2. (Currently Amended) The electromagnetic drive device as set forth in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein in the non-energized state of the at least one coil (~~25 and 26~~) each pair of oppositely magnetized magnet portions (~~11, 12; 32, 33 and, respectively, 13, 14; 34, 35~~) is positioned in the vicinity of two pole pieces (~~19, 21 and, respectively, 20, 22~~) arranged on either side of the drive part (~~10~~).

3. (Currently Amended) The electromagnetic drive device as set forth in claim 1 ~~or claim 2, characterized in that~~ wherein the pairs of magnet portions (11, 12; 32, 33 and, respectively, 13, 14; 34, 35) are spaced apart by an intermediate piece (15; 36) in the stroke direction (H).
4. (Currently Amended) The electromagnetic drive device as set forth in claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the intermediate piece (15; 36) comprises non-magnetizable material.
5. (Currently Amended) The electromagnetic drive device as set forth in claim 1, ~~wherein any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ the width of the pole pieces 19 ~~through 22~~) and/or the diameter of the at least one coil (25 ~~and 26~~) is essentially equal to the diameter of the drive part (10; 30).
6. (Currently Amended) The electromagnetic drive device as set forth in claim 1, ~~wherein any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ the drive part (30) comprises a tube (31) or round rod of non-magnetizable material, more especially plastic, which bears the magnet portions (32 ~~through 35~~).
7. (Currently Amended) The electromagnetic drive device as set forth in claim 6, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein each magnet portion (32 ~~through 35~~) comprises two oppositely magnetized semi-circular disks or half rings 32a ~~through 35a~~, 32b ~~through 35b~~).

8. (Currently Amended) The electromagnetic drive device as set forth in claim 7, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the magnet portions (32 through 35) are arranged in pits or recesses in the tube (31) or round rod.
9. (Currently Amended) The electromagnetic drive device as set forth in claim 1, ~~wherein any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ the drive part (10; 30) is connected with an output drive part which is designed in the form of a piston of a piston spool valve ~~or some other valve member~~.
10. (Currently Amended) The electromagnetic drive device as set forth in claim 9, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the drive part is (30) designed in the form of a tube (31) provided with the permanent magnet arrangement (31 through 35) ~~is~~ in the form of a gripper tongs connected with the output drive part.
11. (Currently Amended) The electromagnetic drive device as set forth in claim 1, ~~wherein any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ several yoke arrangements (16) are arranged in tandem in the stroke direction (H).